*OfC 70.0610*

17 April 1970
SG 70/121

MEMORANDUM FOR THE RECORD

SUBJECT: Briefing by Department of Justice on Organized
           Crime Computer System

25X1

1.   Mr. Gerald Shur of the Organized Crime and Racketeering
Section telephoned undersigned the week of 7 April to ask some
questions about input devices and a NASA software package called
RECON [   ] of SG was able to provide Shur with the name
and telephone number of the NASA official who could answer questions
on RECON.)   Mr. Shur invited undersigned, [   ]   25X1
of CI Staff to Main Justice for a briefing on his system.   He
said he would clear the briefing with NSA, and subsequently said
that NSA had agreed to a CIA "audit" of the development of his
system.   (NSA had apparently agreed to such audits when Justice
decided to go the NSA route (see Para. 3 below) rather than the
CIA route after initial briefings two years ago.)

2.   The briefing was held on 13 April 1970 in room 2730 Main
Justice and was given by Mr. Shur and his systems analyst Dick
Stafiej, who joined Mr. Shur's staff in August 1969.   In September,
Mr. Shur acquired 10 female analysts (GS-7 level) who are college
graduates with majors in criminology, sociology or language.   These
analysts are inputting information collected by Strike Forces
in Philadelphia and Newark into computer language.   (A Strike
Force is an investigative team headed by five Justice Department
lawyers which sets up headquarters in major cities and brings
together investigators from Federal and local government for a
concerted effort against organized crime.   Mr. Shur noted that the
FBI has started cooperating with the Strike Forces only in the
past year).   The method of data input is novel.   The 10 analysts
dictate key phrases from investigative reports onto dictaphone
belts.   Three typists transcribe the tapes on IBM Magnetic Tape
Selectric Typewriters (MTST) and mail the analysts an edit copy,
which they correct.   Final corrections are then made on the MTST
cartridges and the tapes are then loaded to the computer system.
(Undersigned had previously advised Mr. Shur that the Chicago Police
had tried a similar system for transcribing crime reports phoned in by
policemen, but it had broken down because of backlogs and
sloppy transcription).   Justice was finding the MTST tapes difficult
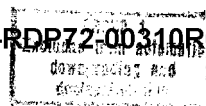
to correct and more MTST's were needed to keep up with the tapes
produced by the analysts. Mr. Bender noted that the CS uses keypunch,
paper tape and, to a limited degree, optical character reader for in-
put to our machine systems. He noted that information put into our
General Information Collation System is keypunched and 100% verified
and we will continue to use keypunch until newer methods are tested and
proven. Mr. Reynolds described our plans to test the Viatron input
device, a low-cost keyboard device which records data on magnetic tape
cassetes and provides a television-like display of the data being
entered. Messrs. Shur and Stafiej said they would be very interested
in our evaluation of the Viatron.

3. The Justice Department system called "Organized Crime Re-
trieval Language - OCRLA" can be compared to our Rapid Search Machine,
except that it is not rapid, since it is being run on a small IBM
360/30 computer which is not geared to searching free text. As a
result, Stafiej is planning a second computer system which will format
the information in OCRLA so that it can be searched on index
sequential disk files rather than searching end to end as at present.
Under the present system, the analysts who input data select significant
phrases, then apply code numbers which tag an entry as belonging to
one or more of 31 categories of information. Thus "travel" is 15,
"investigation" is 27. The analysts must learn the 31 numeric categories
and dictate the appropriate numbers after each entry, which seems
more cumbersome than filling out an input sheet. Another way in which
OCRLA resembles the Rapid Search Machine is that the answers retrieved
by the machine are unformatted strings of phrases and not very
readable. There are also false retrievals. For example, a search for
a cook produced a man named Cook and also Cook County. This is another
reason why Stafiej is working on a formatted file. It was noted that
names are input differently to the two Justice systems - Francis
Scott Key in OCRLA would appear as Key Francis Scott in the formatted
file. Another problem noted in OCRLA was that some entries on an
individual carry the system identification number (OCR number) for that
person, while others do not. Only a search on name will pull these
records together, but the lack of uniformity in name handling does
not promise much from such search. The use of Social Security number
as an identifier was discussed, and Mr. Bender said we would forward
a paper on the subject which was circulated at the CIA Seminar on
Automation of Name Tracing held in Rosslyn in the summer of 1968.

4. Undersigned said that it appeared that Justice was developing
two pilot computer systems - one free text and one formatted - which
will manipulate the same data. He noted that our GICS system combines
formatted data fields for quick retrieval with free text remarks lines
for additional information and readability. Although we have over
40 data fields in our system, experience over the past 7 years has
shown that most special searches use basic parameters of time, place
and nationality.

F3

SECRET

5. Recording of computer output on microfilm (COM) was discussed, and Mr. Shur noted that Dr. Robert Callati of NYSIIS (N.Y. State Identification and Intelligence System) had made inquiries about this technology. Mr. Shur said that the Law Enforcement Assistance Administration was considering a feasibility study (at a cost of several hundred thousand dollars) on the use of computer output to microfilm in law enforcement. We noted that we have used COM with great success for years, and have had our own Stromberg Datagraphic microfilm recorder since 1968. [   ] said we would be glad to brief Dr. Gallati on our experience with COM if Mr. Shur or LEAA invites him to Washington.

25X1

6. Mr. Shur described his problems in getting anyone in Justice to recognize the problem of security. Only recently was he able to move his file cabinets from a public hallway into a room - but he couldn't get a metal door to the room. There is no guard at the main entrance, and money has been stolen from his offices. He has managed to have a sign posted on the hall door restricting entrance to authorized people - but there is no one to enforce the rule. His machine programs are run in a nearby building, in an area on the ground floor, separated from the street only by large expanses of glass. Even so, Mr. Shur said that his colleagues could not understand why he refused to leave his materials there overnight. He has insisted that all people involved in the program be cleared for Top Secret, but they are taken on board right away, with clearances to follow in about four months. Mr. Shur felt that a major theft of material would be required to wake up the Department to the problem. (Despite Mr. Shur's protests, his own office was hardly a model of security - the printout on organized crime was kept in a closet, and the wastebasket was full of machine runs.) (This paragraph written by CI/MRO, [   ])

25X1

7. The OCRLA system development seems to be based on a trial and error approach, with a parallel formatted file system evolving to fill in gaps left by the free text system. Mr. Shur said that his 10 analysts could not possibly cope with the data from 20 Strike Forces plus conversion of 300,000 index cards. There is also a bottleneck in typing the data for entry to the computer, and inadequate computer time. Since Justice has chosen to go the NSA route, we can only provide advice when requested, but their prospects of success look bleak.

25X1
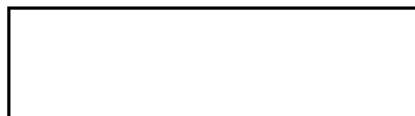
EXO/DDP/SG

cc: 1 - EA/DDP
     2 - CI/MRO

F4

ROUTING AND RECORD SHEET

op-863

SUBJECT: (Optional)

OGC SUBJECT: LIAISON-GOVERNMENTAL

FROM: OGC J-H-5113 7D05	EXTENSION	NO.
		DATE 17 April 1970

TO: (Officer designation, room number, and building)	DATE RECEIVED	DATE FORWARDED	OFFICER'S INITIALS	COMMENTS (Number each comment to show from whom to whom. Draw a line across column after each comment.)
1. Chief, OPSER 3 C 29	20 Apr 1970	20 APR 1970		25X1
2.				
3. OGC (Mr. Warner) 7 D 01 JRW	1/21/10	4/21/70		John, This is very interesting, & somewhat discouraging. Have you talked to _____ 25X1 _____ about our appreciation for keeping us informed? JRW
4.				25X1
5.				25X1
6.				
7.				
8.				
9.				
10.				
11.				
12.				
13.				
14.				
15.				

F1